

As an end user, and Computer expert, I would like to express my opposition to the current broadcast flag proposal, and more generally to your approach to Digital TV.

I believe that given the low percentage of people who get their TV over the air, you would be better to require a Digital Interface slot and require that the TV manufacturers provide a "Over The Air" tuner card for this slot, at \$50.00 for those people who did not attach to Cable or Satellite boxes via this slot. Thus being guaranteed to be reasonably costly, but only an added cost on those people who did not use Cable or Satellite.

Re: The broadcast flag, It is my understanding that over the air TV was to be a Public Good service and thus not Encrypted. The Broadcast Flag is effectively a way to control the access to public over the air TV and thus seems to be a violation of this intention.

My proposal would be that stations and consumer, Video only products be required to not mechanically delete a short, say 1 second, "start of program" Human and Machine readable message, for tracing any pirating, but that there be no restriction on the ability of the user to skip over this as any other content. and that general purpose hardware, e.g. PC's, even if they had Tuner cards in them, be unrestricted.

If you do decide to proceed with the broadcast flag, I would suggest:

- 1) That only special purpose video consumer or commercial products be required to process the broadcast flag. Most people would thus be restricted from re-broadcasting High Resolution information, while developments in the PC area, etc. would not be prevented.

- 2) If Broadcast flags are mandated, then the use of them be mandated for ONLY preventing internet re-broadcast as the proponents suggest, and that any other use be criminally illegal. Though I disagree that this is a serious problem, I suggest that you take them at their word and require that the ONLY use for this technology be for this purpose. Otherwise you are opening up a possibility for the content providers to then use as they see fit to eliminate all Over the air content as we know it.

- 3) That you ensure that it only apply to outputs above 480p in resolution so that current TV's, Recorders, content, not entertainment processing PC's etc. not be prevented from dealing with broadcast information. -- Thus High resolution entertainment could be protected from Internet Rebroadcast, without un-reasonable impact on low resolution devices